

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering adapted to cover an object surface, such as a surface of for application to a building or other solid object and which supports to support an outer applied coating, the multi-layer covering comprising:

(a) a fabric layer defining an outer surface of the multi-layer covering; ~~the fabric layer being porous, resilient and flexible and allowing penetration by the outer coating, in use, and being selected from the group consisting of: (i) a strong woven fabric blanket; (ii) a non-woven fabric or batt; (iii) a mesh layer; and wherein the multi-layer covering further comprises:~~

(b) ~~a second layer being a non-fabric backing layer fixed to~~ bonded to an inner surface of the fabric layer and coextensive with the fabric layer; ~~the backing layer being a web which strengthens and combines with layer (a) to provide strength to the same to allow the fabric layer to bridge cracks and gaps in the base object and wherein a series of through holes are present in the second layer wherein, in use, when the multi-layer covering is applied to a building or other solid object, and an outer coating applied, the holes allow the outer coating to penetrate through the second layer to the building or other solid object.~~

(c) ~~a bonding layer or a means of bonding the second layer to the fabric layer;~~

(d) ~~an adhesive layer disposed on the opposite side~~ an inner surface of the backing layer ~~to the fabric layer; and~~

(e) ~~a sacrificial or removable peel-off layer protecting the adhesive layer.~~

a removable protective layer covering the adhesive on the inner surface of the backing layer;

wherein the protective layer is removable to allow the multi-layer covering to be

adhered to and cover the object surface, such that the outer surface of the multi-layer covering provides a smooth outer surface for supporting the applied coating; and  
wherein the fabric layer is sufficiently porous to allow the applied coating to  
penetrate to the backing layer and the backing layer has a series of through holes adapted  
to allow the applied coating to penetrate through the backing layer to the object surface.

35. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the holes in ~~layer (b)~~ the backing layer comprise a grid of blister holes punched through ~~that~~ the backing layer.

36. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 35 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.5mm to 10mm and the holes are spaced apart by 10mm to 300mm.

37. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 36 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.6mm to 5mm; and the holes are spaced apart by ~~of~~ 10mm to 50mm.

38. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein a grid of through holes is defined in at least ~~layers (a) and (b) of the multi-layer covering~~ the backing layer and the fabric layer.

39. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 38 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.5mm to 10mm and the holes are spaced apart by ~~of~~ 10mm to 300mm.

40. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 39 wherein the holes have a diameter of 0.6mm to 5mm; and the holes are spaced apart by ~~of~~ 10mm to 50mm.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein ~~the flexible, porous, resilient strong~~ the fabric layer is formed from a woven fabric ~~has~~ having a thickness from 2mm to 20mm, the woven fabric being made from fibres or strands and wherein either gaps between fibres in the woven fabric are defined in the range of 0.3mm to 3.0mm or holes having a diameter of 0.3mm to 3.0mm are ~~defined~~ formed in the woven fabric.

43. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 42 wherein ~~layer (a) is a fabric which is from~~ the fabric layer has a thickness of 2mm to 5mm ~~thick~~.

44. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein ~~layer (a)~~ the fabric layer is a flexible mesh layer that defines a spacing between strands of the mesh of 3mm to 20mm.

45. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein ~~layer (a)~~ the fabric layer is a non-woven fabric ~~or~~ such as a batt having a thickness from 2mm to 20mm, the non-woven fabric being made from fibres or strands and wherein either gaps between fibres or strands in the non-woven fabric are defined in the range of 0.3mm to 3.0mm or holes having a diameter of 0.3mm to 3.0mm are ~~defined~~ formed in the non-woven fabric.

46. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the fabric layer is made from a plastics material such as fibre glass or PET fibres.

47. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer is a metallic reflective foil.

48. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer includes a metallic reflective foil and building paper.

49. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer is a building paper.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) A multi-layer covering as claimed in claim 34 wherein the backing layer includes two metallic reflective foils sandwiching a sheet of building paper.

53. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an object surface such as a wall, ceiling, roof, or floor ~~by applying a multi-layer covering comprising the steps of:~~

~~(a) a fabric layer defining an outer surface of the multi-layer covering, the fabric layer being porous, resilient and flexible and allowing penetration by the outer coating, in use, and being selected from the group consisting of: (i) a strong woven fabric blanket; (ii) a non-woven fabric or batt; (iii) a mesh layer; and wherein the multi-layer covering further comprises:~~

~~(b) a second layer being a backing layer fixed to the fabric layer, the backing layer being a web which strengthens and combines with layer (a) to provide strength to the same to allow the fabric layer to bridge cracks and gaps in the base object and wherein a series of through holes are present in the second layer wherein, in use, when the multi-layer covering is applied to a building or other solid object, and an outer coating applied, the holes allow the outer coating to penetrate through the second layer to the building or other solid object.~~

~~(c) a bonding layer or a means of bonding the second layer to the fabric layer;~~

~~(d) an adhesive layer disposed on the opposite side of the backing layer to the fabric layer; and~~

~~(e) a sacrificial or removable peel-off layer protecting the adhesive layer.~~

providing a multi-layer covering, the multi-layer covering including:

a porous fabric layer defining an outer surface of the multi-layer covering;

a non-fabric backing layer having a series of through holes, the backing layer being bonded to an inner surface of the fabric layer and coextensive with the fabric layer;

an adhesive disposed on an inner surface of the backing layer; and

a removable protective layer covering the adhesive on the inner surface of the backing layer;

~~removing the removable or sacrificial peel-off protective layer from the multi-layer covering;~~

~~applying the multi-layer covering to the object surface, the wall, ceiling, roof, or floor using the adhesive layer to retain the multi-layer covering in position, so that substantially all of the object surface is covered by both the fabric layer and the backing layer and so that the outer surface of the multi-layer covering provides a smooth outer surface; and~~

~~applying one or more coatings to the smooth outer layer surface of the multi-layer covering, such that the applied coating penetrates through the fabric layer and through the holes of the backing layer to the object surface.~~

54. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of treating a wall ceiling, roof, or floor~~ as claimed in claim 53 wherein the step of applying one or more coatings comprises applying one or more layers coatings of acrylic render or paint.

55. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the multi-layer covering is applied to a wall and the coating is a render or paint applied with a brush, roller, or spray gun ~~or the like~~.

56. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 54 wherein the ~~paint or render~~ coating includes cement and/or sand particles and an acrylic polymer binder and wherein the sand and cement particles are sufficiently small to penetrate into the gaps between the fibres of the fabric layer and the holes in the backing layer ~~as far as the face of the wall~~ to reach the object surface so that the covering is saturated with acrylic render or paint.

57. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the covering is applied to a roof and the coating is an adhesive or sealant.

58. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the covering is applied to a floor and the coating is tiling cement, grout, or adhesive.